

D. P. WRIGHT, M. D., Editor.

TERMS: \$2.00 IN ADVANCE.

CLARKSVILLE: DEC. 9, 1876.

## THE SITUATION IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

The events which have recently taken place in South Carolina will in any event fill a prominent page in the history of the United States. Whether this audacious effort of revolutionary tyranny prove ultimately a success or a failure, in either case it will form an epoch in history. If successful it will be recorded as the event which determined the conversion of a great republic, constituted of States enjoying the most liberal provisions for self-government, into a centralized despotism, all movements in which depend upon the impulses communicated from the executive centre. If a failure, it will have been rendered so by the universal condemnation of the entire mass of the people, and then will come the enquiry, how into such great commonwealth come into such imminent peril of destruction; and how are such perils to be in future prevented, and this will cause a scrutiny of our organic laws bearing upon the question, and the enactment of new checks upon the executive to be incorporated in an amended constitution. And so in either case the events commencing in Columbia, South Carolina, on the night of Nov. 27, 1876, and terminating we know not when or how, will be the subject of an historic page for which we are now furnishing the material.

To render our statement the more intelligible we will speak in abstract the narrative we give of transactions to the night of Nov. 23, and then give more in detail those which have since transpired.

It will be remembered then that on the night of Nov. 27 the State House was occupied by U. S. troops, and that at first no one was admitted into the building without passes furnished by some agent of the Governor named Jones; but afterwards this order was rescinded and sentinels were posted around the building, but that sentinels were placed at the door of the hall of Representatives who under the direction of a man named Dennis, prevented any one from entering but those who presented certificates from the returning board of their election; certificates from the records of the Supreme court were refused admission.

Upon this the Democratic members went in a body to another building where they organized, the Radical members organizing in the Hall of Representatives; the Democrats making a formal protest presented in writing to Gen. Ruger, which we printed last week—the number of the Democratic members was 65 that of the Radicals 59. On the morning of the 29th the Democratic members went in a body to the hall and demanded admission with the delegates from Laurens and Edgefield, (the disputed counties) at their head. Armed soldiers again prevented their entrance; but one member afterwards in some way made his way in and read a protest against the above proceedings. On the evening of this day the first symptoms of a change in the councils of the administration made itself seen, and Gen. Ruger sent a message to Gen. Hampton, that all persons holding the certificates either of the returning board or the Supreme court would receive admission. On the morning of the 30th accordingly the Democratic members went in a body to the Court House; they found soldiers still around the building but none in or at the doors of the Legislative Hall. The doorkeepers made a slight resistance which was soon overcome, the Democrats enter in a body and Mr. Wallace their speaker takes the chair. A few of the Radical members had been dropping in from time to time but were evidently taken by surprise and knew not how to act.

Speaker Wallace took the chair, the Clerk of the house elected by the Democratic members sat on the platform with him, two Sergeants-at-arms Democratic and the other Radical (the latter colored) stood at the door of the house. About five minutes after this Gen. Hampton presented himself at the door and asked for admittance, but was refused by the Republican door-keepers backed by a mob of negroes. Some Democratic members came out to his assistance and at this point a collision seemed imminent, but Gen. Hampton prevented it by withdrawing—no other demonstration of anything like violence occurred throughout the proceedings. At 11 a. m. F. W. Mackey, Col'd, the Republican Speaker arrived accompanied by a colored Clerk and a detective officer. He ran up the steps of the platform and said to Speaker Wallace, "You will please vacate this seat."

Mr. Wallace remained seated and replied as follows:

"I have been elected by a majority of the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina, duly sworn in Carolina Hall on Tuesday, 28th inst. The constitution provides that the Legislature shall convene in Columbia on the fourth Tuesday in November. It makes no provision that the House of Representatives shall be organized in this hall. On Tuesday last a majority of the members of the House of Representatives with certificates of election were duly sworn in Carolina Hall, and organized with a membership of sixty-six, who, according to the constitution, were duly sworn and officers elected. We are here in pursuance of our rights under the constitution of the State. We desire to oppose no man, to deprive no man of rights upon the floor. We desire to claim only the rights that belong to us and those rights we intend to have."

Amid great excitement, nearly all the members rising to their feet the Republican Speaker, Mackey, said:

"I claim that I am elected Speaker of this House by a legal quorum of members legally sworn in. We do not recognize that any other than those sworn in here on Tuesday last are members of this House, and those who are visiting this hall without consent must keep order."

Things now become dramatic and must be reported in a dramatic form. Mackey—I must again demand that you, Gen. Wallace, leave this hall.

Wallace—I have already declared that I am legally elected Speaker and must request you to retire.

[Noise, confusion and laughter.] Mackey.—The Sergeant-at-arms will please step forward and enforce my order.

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## LATEST DISPATCHES.

Good news comes to us from South Carolina this afternoon (Wednesday). Another member of Mackey's mob has gone over to the Democratic House, giving that body 63 members—a quorum—in possession of certificates of election from the Canvassing Board.

In addition to this, the Supreme Court of the State has declared the Democratic House to be the legal one, and will at once issue a mandamus compelling the Secretary of State to turn over the returns for Governor and Lieutenant Governor to Speaker Wallace.

NEW YORK, Dec. 6.—Washington, in his speech, Columbia last night, said to the people:

I am supported by the property-owners of the State, by the good men of all classes. Two months ago I said I would submit my claims before the people of South Carolina, and if elected Governor by the General Court, I would have my place. Since then, in spite of frauds and falsehoods, the powers of the State government and Governor I will be. The ballot-box has announced the verdict of the people, and I will be their Governor. They shall have a military government.

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., Dec. 6.—The count is now finished, and Hayes' majority is 930. The Republicans elect the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and both members of Congress. All is quiet.

OREGON. PORTLAND, Dec. 6.—Grover to-day issued certificates to two Hayes Electors and one Tilden Elector—Cronin. The two Hayes Electors declined to accept their places. The Tilden Elector, who held all three certificates, appointed two Republicans to act in his place. The two whom he appointed met with him, received their certificates, and then all voted for Cronin—two for Hayes and Cronin for Tilden.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 6.—A dispatch from Sacramento, the Secretary of State has given Cronin, the Democratic Elector having the highest number of votes, the certificate. The Republican Electors declined to accept their places. The Tilden Elector, who held all three certificates, appointed two Republicans to act in his place. The two whom he appointed met with him, received their certificates, and then all voted for Cronin—two for Hayes and Cronin for Tilden.

LATER.—The story further goes that when the electors had met, Odell and Cartwright refused to act with Cronin, whereupon Cronin declared a vacancy and elected J. U. Miller and J. H. Parker to fill the places of the two who refused to act. Cronin voted for Tilden and Hendricks and the two others for Hayes and Wheeler. Cartwright and Odell refused to accept the resignation of Watts, then elected him to fill the vacancy and cast the vote of the State for Hayes and Wheeler. There is great excitement in the Republicans are indignant at the Governor's action. An outbreak was expected by many, who went to the State House prepared for violence. The Republicans are holding an indignation meeting this evening.

A CARD. HON. LEON TROUSDALE, State Superintendent: Dear Sir,—In the American of the 30th ult., in an article headed "Educational," I see this county (Montgomery), classed with the delinquent counties, whose Superintendents have failed to send in their annual reports. I am a native of this county, and I am a competent person to make said annual report, etc. This publication does me gross injustice, as my report, sent as early as it possibly could be, under circumstances of which you were duly apprised by letter, certainly must have reached you in time to have avoided it. In a favor from you of Nov. 21st, now before me, you state that the "included circular has been sent to about fifteen counties for day. I refrain from sending it to your Chairman because I know you are using the utmost exertion to do your duty. I must, however, request that you hasten to send your report. I shall expect it during the present week."

At once wrote you by card, that my report would certainly reach you last Monday (Nov. 27), and I mailed it to you that day. I hope, sir, that a sense of justice will prompt you to correct this evident mistake, as you must be fully aware the delay was not occasioned by any dereliction of duty on my part. I have hitherto reported promptly all matters asked for from your office.

Very truly, N. L. WHITEFIELD.

EDITORS CHRONICLE: The delay of the annual report of the Superintendent of this county, as has been repeatedly stated to the State Superintendent, was caused by the change made in the District Board of Directors by the election in August. The term of that member of the District Board who had been acting as clerk and treasurer, expired on the first of September, and as many of the District Board thought on the day of the election. The Sheriff of the county called application for the three Directors instead of one of the law required, and although the proper correction was made by me, many of the citizens of the county thought the Sheriff was right, and in several districts three directors were elected. It required time to rectify this mistake, which, as my ruling in the matter was disputed, could only be settled by higher authority. I therefore referred it to the State Superintendent and Attorney General, who sustained my decision. The district boards were thus unavoidably kept in a disorganized condition for sometime, and before a "fair count" of the situation could be taken, the time for making my annual report had expired and passed.

Very truly, N. L. WHITEFIELD.

Death of Gen. Samuel Cooper. BATHING, Dec. 5.—Gen. Samuel Cooper, ex-Confederate Adjutant and Inspector General, died last night at his home in Madison, Tenn. He was born in New York in 1798, and was a graduate of West Point. He married a sister of the Hon. M. M. Mason, of Mason and Sledge fame, a far distinguished services in the Florida and Mexico wars was made Adjutant General under Scott. In April, 1851, he resigned and went to Montgomery, Ala., where he was appointed Adjutant and Inspector General of the Confederate forces, whose organization he effected. He was captured in company with Jefferson Davis at Charlotte, N. C., and after his release went to live in Fairfax county, Va., where he remained until his death. He leaves a wife, son and daughter.

W. H. Brown, who was killed at Pittsburg, leaving a wife and child, died at 100, being 70 years of age, of a coal at one and a half cent per bushel.

## FROM WOODLAND, TENN.

"I am dreaming, fondly dreaming, of the happiness of yore, of the peaceful, blissful moments, gone for evermore. In those departed sunny hours I had vision and grandeur, and flowers for my revels—color and life."

The bustling scenes of the day have closed, and silence, like a spirit, is brooding o'er the earth. 'Tis the hour of twilight, and while I sit in the dim light of the waxing moon, thoughts of other days start over me, the memory of which brings a feeling of pensive sadness. Then all was bright with hope. The heart was joyous with anticipations of the future. The many cares of the world were unknown. Of melancholy clouds, then needed not a silver lining, for life to me was all sunshine. But now, former hope is blighted; associates of other days are gone; those where I imagined flowers only grew. Reflections like these throng the mind, conjured up by the calm, still hour of twilight, as his wand is waved o'er the earth.

The hymnical raid seems to continue. We were surprised on last Wednesday by the union of Mr. Porter and Miss Tom Long. We extend to them our best wishes for their happiness and prosperity. Mr. H. C. Long has turned aside from "single blessedness" and united his destiny with one of Kentucky's charming flowers, Miss Willie Mallory, daughter of Capt. T. G. Mallory, of Hopkinsville. I congratulate you, Willie, on your happy marriage. May every anticipated joy be realized, and no cloud of darkness gather on your horizon.

"Remember 'tis no common tie that binds your youthful heart: 'Tis one that only truth should nerve, and only duty should impart."

The young men of the country are having a nice time bird hunting these cold days.

Mr. Willie Marshall complimented his friends at Woodland with a short visit on last week, pretended to be on a bird hunt, but we think the most of his hunting was in pursuit of gold.

A young sprig of the race remarked to me a few days ago (with a wise look) that would have become a Solomon! That Woodland was rather a small city to boast of a sufficiency of news to justify a correspondent; it would be impossible to write more than two letters a year, as that would quite exhaust the few 'items of news,' that could be gleaned from Woodland.

In reply to all such sneering remarks in reference to our little town, I will simply say:

"Springing from the faintest comes, and rising from the faintest often comes. That there is a power in trifles."

Mr. Wilson, the Methodist minister, filled his appointment here on last Sunday afternoon, but owing to the inclemency of the weather, there was few in attendance.

We have a new citizen, Mr. James Meacham, who moved in the house vacated by Mr. Wood. We welcome you, Mr. M., to your new home, and wish you great success.

The young ladies of our country are very anxious to know more about that picture possessing such "Adonis-like beauty," I. D. A. spoke of in her last letter. Can it be one of Tennessee's noblest talents? Nay, we think not, he is the possessor of such "jetty curls," and destitute of the much coveted treasure, a "moustache."

Strange yet true! Christmas will soon be here, and the inquiry (at least among the girls), is "What will we do?" "Where will we go?" "Who will we see?" Ah! how well the advice of the Scriptures will apply to them: "Take no thought for the morrow, for the morrow shall take thought for the things which are his; and the very ashes of his home, is the grandest figure in our history of to-day."

Augusta Constitutionalist: Wade Hampton standing up for peace and fraternal feeling for Constitutional liberty and the true Union, and the very ashes of his home, is the grandest figure in our history of to-day.

Marches exiled, more true glory feels than Cooper with the Senate at his heels.

Dr. H. H. Clayton was elected mayor of Murfreesboro, Tenn., and Dr. J. D. Owen mayor of Lebanon, Tenn. In the latter town twenty-four white men, representing various factions and parties, ran for aldermen and were beaten by three negroes.

FOR RENT FOR 1877. A House with six rooms on Greenwood Avenue, with about one acre of ground. Apply to E. R. ELY.

NEW SADDLERY HOUSE